

ABSTEACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an apparatus for discriminating the kind of a sheet material, comprising: a substrate having a recessed portion; a  
5 press member situated so that a sheet material can be deflected using the recessed portion; a support member that is deformed as the sheet material situated to cover the recessed portion is pressed by the press member and thereby deflected; and a sensor  
10 for detecting the deformation amount of the support member, wherein the kind of the sheet material is discriminated on the basis of detecting the deformation amount of the support member by the sensor.